

Newsletter February 1st 2021

Kia ora koutou whanau

It's fabulous to be back at school today and to see all of the smiling faces. Today we welcomed new pupils:

Maia, Alexi, Reece, Renata, Cole, Dominika, Madeline and Jade

Welcome to the 2021 year at Rakaia School. We are very excited about the year ahead as we begin to plan for the 2022 Jubilee celebrating 150 years. To cement a great understanding of our school the children will be spending the 2021 year exploring the Rakaia area and its stories. This will start with a focus on "Ko wai au?" which translates to "Who am I?" This focus helps the children explore their own heritage and stories as well as our community stories and growth. You will see the children in the community looking at features and monuments and hopefully talking with family members about our history as a village.

We welcome Mrs Linda Gosling to Rakaia School. Linda will be teaching Year 3 and 4 students in place of Mrs Fekitoa who is on maternity leave until the end of term 3. Our new Deputy principal, Mr Morgan Platt has settled very well into the community and he and his wife welcomed their second child, Cohen in early January. A beautiful baby brother for Noa.

The staff have just finished a two day retreat to prepare for the year ahead. Our focus areas are Structured Literacy and the Science of Reading, Maths development and also Behaviour. It is a clear message to all communities that a child's behaviour is a communication and it is often our job to help them figure out why they feel this way and what we can do about it. If their behaviour is affecting/limiting their learning or the learning of others then you can expect a call from the school to support positive change and encourage the appropriate responses to situations.

As part of the Literacy and Maths development we will be rewriting our learning goals for these areas and subsequently we have withdrawn the dials from our reporting software. Parents will still receive 8 comments a year about your child's progress and achievement. The expected levels will be shared and you are always welcome to make appointments to see the staff throughout the year. We hope to have the new goals written by mid year.

On Tuesday February 16th we will have an evening BBQ at school and this will also be the "meet the teacher" evening. Arrive from 5.30pm and then class meetings will start at 6pm, 6.30pm and 7pm. Sausages and bread will be available and you are welcome to use the pool with your own supervision, use the playground and enjoy a picnic atmosphere while we introduce you to your staff and classrooms.



We wish to express our sincere thank you to the Rakaia community members who have made contact expressing an interest in supporting families with stationery costs and uniform costs. Any donations go into the Principal's discretionary account where I can support camps, food, stationery and other costs for families in need. Please contact the office and talk with Mandy and she can give you the account number and receipt if you wish, to cover your donations.

HERO Development: downloaded from the app store or google play.

At Rakaia school we use the HERO app to share with you your child's progress and achievement. There will be 8 comments at least this year and you will see a small change to the set up from last year.



We have withdrawn the dials because we are in the throws of rewriting and reviewing our goals in Literacy and Numeracy so they fit explicitly with our focus. The goals in the programme are generic and sometimes too broad. One example is there are 67 generic goals for level one maths. This is far too much and when the programme uses an algorithm to work out your child's best fit then this is unachievable in a year or two at school.

The staff are working closely with experts to get the best fit before July 1st when we give a mid year report to you on HERO.

2nd Hand Uniform Sale

Welcome to the New Year, we will be having another second hand uniform sale this Friday the 5th of February from 2.45pm until 3.15pm outside the shed at school. Eftpos will be available this year but we still do cash and good quality swaps. No I.O.U's thanks.

Any donations of uniform are always welcome. We are particularly short on polo's if you have any spare.

Thank you Clare Stewart
0274 190020

We look forward to an amazing year.

Mark Ellis
Principal
Rakaia School



